

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed April 6, 2004. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and the newly-added claims are respectfully requested.

1. Present Status Of Patent Application

Upon entry of the Response and the amendments made herein, newly-added claims 15-36 are currently pending in the present application. The Applicants herewith submit remarks specifically responding to the rejections raised by the Examiner in the Office Action.

2. Summary Of The Rejections

In the present Office Action, the drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) and MPEP § 608.02(d) as failing to show the actuating members and process as described in the Specification.

The Office Action also objects to the Specification as containing an Abstract that contains improper content. Specifically, the Office Action states that the Abstract is too long under M.P.E.P § 608.01.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement, and under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which Applicants regard as the invention.

The Office Action further rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), or in the alternative, 35 U.S.C. § 103, as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,114,839 to Sibley et al. (*Sibley*), U.S. Patent No. 5,927,648 to Woodland (*Woodland*), or U.S. Patent No. 4,593,288 to Fitzpatrick (*Fitzpatrick*).

In response, the Applicants submit a substitute Specification and Abstract, amended drawings, and new claims, which are based on the Application and claims as originally filed. The Applicants believe that the objections and rejections of the Office Action have been fully addressed, and no new matter has been added.

3. Response To Objection To The Drawings

The Office Action objects to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) and MPEP § 608.02(d) as failing to show the actuating members and process as described in the specification. Specifically, the Office Action states that any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing.

In response, and as required by the Office Action, the Applicants have submitted proposed corrected drawings. The corrected drawings have been annotated to include numbered indicators that are included and described in the Detailed Description of the substitute Specification. Applicants believe that the combination of the numbered indicators and the Detailed Description of the substitute Specification provide the proper understanding of the claimed invention, without adding new matter.

4. Response To Objection To Abstract

The Applicants have amended the abstract to comply with the requirements under M.P.E.P § 608.01, and is now less than 150 words.

5. Response to Rejections of Claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants submit that the rejections have been addressed and rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-14, and the addition of new claims 15-36, which are fully supported and enabled by the substitute Specification.

Thus, Applicants submit that the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, rejection has been overcome, and that new claims 15-36 are not subject to rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

6. Response to Rejections of Claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants submit that the rejection has been addressed and rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-14, and the addition of new claims 15-36, which meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Thus, Applicants submit that the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection has been overcome, and that new claims 15-36 are not subject to rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

7. Response to Rejections of Claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), or in the alternative, 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,114,839 to Sibley et al. (*Sibley*), U.S. Patent No. 5,927,648 to Woodland (*Woodland*), or U.S. Patent No. 4,593,288 to Fitzpatrick (*Fitzpatrick*). As explained in detail below, the Applicants believe that new claims 15-36 are patentable over all of the cited art, because, taken alone or in combination, the cited art fails to describe all elements of the invention, or render those elements obvious.

Newly-added claims 15 and 27 are independent claims. Claims 16-26 depend from independent claim 15. Claims 28-36 depend from independent claim 27. The following remarks apply to both independent claims 15 and 27. Thus, for brevity, Applicants' remarks made hereinafter that are referenced as directed towards claim 15, should further be viewed as

applicable to all of newly-added claims 15-36. Furthermore, the traversal is made with the understanding that claims 16-36 are also patentably distinct over the prior art and may include additional features that, beyond those recited in claim 15, provide further, separate, and independent bases for patentability.

The Office Action states that *Sibley*, *Woodland* and *Fitzpatrick* disclose a lift platform with a mechanized camera/sensor that is attached to an aircraft that extends outwardly from a door, and extends inwardly from the door. However, none of the cited references disclose, alone or in combination, “a platform to which [an] object is attached,” and “a linear guide that is connected to [a] mounting structure, wherein the linear guide directs linear movement of the platform,” and “a mechanism for extending and retracting the platform, outside and inside the body, along the linear guide,” as required by newly-added independent claim 15. Therefore, Applicants submit that newly-added independent claim 15 is patentable over the cited art.

Newly-added independent claim 27 contains the same limitations cited above with respect to independent claim 15, except in method form, and therefore Applicants submit that newly-added independent claim 27 is patentable for the same reasons that independent claim 15 is patentable.

The Applicants do not herein address the specific reasons for the patentability of each of claims 16-26 and 28-36, because each of those claims depend from independent claims 15 and 27 respectively, and those claims are therefore allowable based on the allowability of claims 15 and 27. However, the Applicants reserve the right to address the specific reasons for allowability of claims 16-26 and 28-36 should it be necessary to do so. Thus, the Applicants submit that the rejections of claims 16-26 and 28-36 have been overcome for the same reasons detailed above

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with regard to the rejection of independent claims 15 and 27 from which claims 16-26 and 28-36 respectively depend.

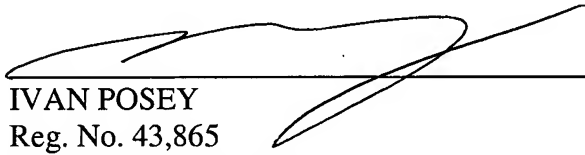
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest and bona fide effort to clarify the issues before the Examiner and to place this case in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments and discussions, it is clear that the cited art, in combination, does not teach all of the elements of any newly-added claim of the present invention. Thus, the claimed invention is patentably distinct over the prior art. Therefore, allowance of all of the new claims 15-36 is believed to be in order, and an early Notice of Allowance to this effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning the foregoing, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (310) 712-8311. The undersigned attorney can normally be reached Monday through Friday from about 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,

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